

Appl. No. 10/729,146  
Supplement to Request for Reconsideration  
Reply dated June 1, 2007

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### REMARKS

A Final Office Action in the present application issued on January 22, 2007. Applicants replied on April 23, 2007. The reply was by way of amendment and argument, and further included a Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 of co-inventor Timothy A. Ringeisen (hereinafter referred to as "the first Ringeisen Declaration"). An Advisory Action issued on May 11, 2007. Applicants' prior Amendment After Final appears to have been entered. Applicants filed a reply to the Advisory Action (Request for Reconsideration) on May 22, 2007. This reply supplements that May 22 reply, and corrects a statement made in the April 23 amendment.

Specifically, in the April 23, 2007 Amendment After Final, Applicants' representative and co-inventor Timothy Ringeisen stated "the compression process of the instant invention never features a rotation of a piston or of the mold during the compression step". Applicants still stand by this statement. However, Applicants' representative stated even further, "The processes of Stone and Li each feature a rotating component that helps align fibers, and this is a feature that is not shared by the instant patent application." This statement goes farther than it needed to, and may give rise to a misunderstanding or misinterpretation.

In particular, Figure 4 is an embodiment of the instant application that in fact shows an apparatus having a rotating component. The fibers in the slurry become aligned as the slurry passes between the pinch rollers, so one might conceivably argue that these rollers help align the fibers. While not expressly stating so, the paragraph at the top of page 23 of the specification that describes this figure at least suggests that this embodiment is part of Applicants' invention.

Though the application is after final, the instant paper should be entered into the file and made of record because failure to do so could result in prejudice to the Office. The paper was not presented earlier because the above-mentioned inaccuracy did not come to the attention of Applicants' representative until the evening of May 30, 2007, when he was reviewing the specification of the instant application. In particular, his review reminded him that an aspect or embodiment of the instant invention is the pinch roller embodiment of Figure 4.

Despite the unnecessary breadth of the above-quoted statement at issue, the instant invention is still patentable over Stone and Li, and for the reasons cited by inventor Ringeisen in his May 22, 2007, Declaration. Specifically, Stone and Li impart rotational flow to a slurry. Thus, points closer to the axis move faster than points further away, preventing alignment of fibers. The embodiment of the instant invention shown in Figure 4 is different from this. In particular, even though there is a rotating component (e.g., a pair of pinch rollers), it does not impart rotational flow to the slurry; it merely applies increasing compression as the slurry material is pushed or pulled between the pair of rollers.

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### CONCLUSION

While it goes too far to state categorically that the instant invention never features a rotating component for aligning fibers in a slurry, it is true that the instant invention does not involve imparting rotation to a slurry. Applicants' representative appreciates the opportunity to clarify the record.

In view of the above clarifying remarks, and the previously submitted amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office issue a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 22-26, 28-33, 36-50, 52-65 and 74-87.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicants would be desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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June 1, 2007

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